

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 14167 290909Z
ACTION HA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 SSO-00 SY-02 L-01 IO-06
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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4282

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 14167

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: TWO UNHCR LOCAL STAFF MEMBERS ARRESTED FOR CORRUPTION

REF: GENEVA 13920

1. INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION (ICAC) ARRESTED TWO LOCAL UNHCR EMPLOYEES, PETER TRAN AND STEPHEN CHAN, ON SEPT. 29. CHARGES WILL BE PREFERRED AGAINST BOTH EMPLOYEES SAME OR FOLLOWING DAY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ICAC VISITED UNHCR OFFICE EARLY SEPT. 29, WHICH IS LOCATED IN HONG KONG IMMIGRATION DEPT BUILDING, TO INTERVIEW UNHCR REP CARPENTER. EVIDENCE AGAINST BOTH EMPLOYEES WAS SEIZED FROM THEIR OFFICE. ICAC BELIEVES THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE ON HAND TO CONVICT BOTH WITH HEAVY (PEHAPS FOUR YEARS) SENTENCES, BUT INTENDS CONTINUE INVESTIGATION TO GATHER STILL MORE DETAILS. BASICALLY, EVIDENCE AGAINST BOTH EMPLOYEES AT PRESENT IS THAT THEY USED THEIR POSITIONS TO EXTORT MONEY FROM BOAT REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY OWNERS OF REFUGEE BOATS.

3. UNHCR REP CARPENTER DISMISSED BOTH EMPLOYEES ON SEPT. 29
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AFTER THEIR ARRESTS.

4. IF ICAC CONTINUES INVESTIGATION, IT MAY LEAD INTO COMMERCIAL REFUGEE ACCOMMODATION SITES. VAST MAJORITY OF BOAT REFUGEES IN HONG KONG ARE ACCOMMODATED IN HOTELS/ BOARDING HOUSES/HOSTELS OPERATED BY MAYFAIR AND SINGAPORE HOTEL GROUPS. TRAN WAS HIRED BY UNHCR OUT OF MAYFAIR

HOTEL, CONTINUED LIVE THERE WHILE HE WORKED FOR UNHCR
AND, AS CARPENTER ADMITTED TO ICAC ON SEPT. 29, HAD
RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCOMMODATING BOAT REFUGEES.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: CORRUPTION, REFUGEES, ARRESTS, INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation Codes:
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